

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 01922 091631 Z

43

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 NEAE-00 PM-09 NSC-10 SS-15

RSC-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 MC-02 GAC-01

OMB-01 ACDA-19 PRS-01 L-03 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00

SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 RSR-01 /122 W

----- 015957

O R 091530 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3863

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 1922

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SA, UK

SUBJECT: REPORTED SALE OF BRITISH AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM TO SAUDI
ARABIA

REF: STATE 087747

1. WITH REGARD QUESTIONS PARA 2 REFTEL, NEWS REPORTED
IN WASHINGTON POST REFERS TO BAC CONTRACT WHICH WAS SIGNED
AS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN UKG AND SAG MAY 7.

2. EMBOFF GIVEN BY BRITISH EMBASSY TEXT OF ANNOUNCEMENT TO BE MADE
MAY 10 IN PARLIAMENT (EMBARGOED UNTIL THEN) ANNOUNCING CON-
CLUSION OF DEAL. ANNOUNCEMENT NOTES MOU SIGNED FOR MAINTENANCE,
TRAINING, AND SUPPORT. IT SPECIFIES THAT WORK WILL BE PERFORMED
BY BRITISH AIRCARFT CORPORATION, AND THAT " THESE ARRANGEMENTS WILL
LAST FOR FIVE YEARS." ANNOUNCEMENT WILL ALSO POINT OUT THAT
MOU IS BASICALLY A FOLLOW- ON ARRANGEMENT TO EARLIER CONSORTIUM
DEAL. BRITISH EMBASSY NOTED THAT, IN ANY QUERIES FROM
PRESS OR OTHERS, UKG WOULD STRESS FACT THAT THIS MERELY FOLLOW-
ON TO ON- GOING CONTRACT AND INVOLVES NO HARDWARE.

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3. COMMENT: EMBASSY HAD HEARD OVER BBC FIGURE OF 250 MILLION POUNDS, (WHICH WOULD BE ABOUT \$625 MILLION). BRITISH EMBASSY SAID IT HAD NO INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON FINAL COST. 250 MILLION POUND FIGURE HIGH, ACCORDING LOCKHEED, WHO HAD ONCE NEGOTIATED FOR PACKAGE, AND COMPANY BELIEVES FIGURE LIKELY TO BE 250 MILLION DOLLARS. EMBASSY WILL ATTEMPT FIND CORRECT COST.
THACHER

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Draft Date: 09 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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Status: <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 980121
Subject: REPORTED SALE OF BRITISH AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM TO SAUDI ARABIA
TAGS: MASS, SA, UK
To: KUWAIT
LONDON
NEA
SECSTATE WASHDC
TEHRAN
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

